

## *Holding Hands*

Watching the old couple  
walking hand in hand, two steadfast friends,  
many years of love, sharing life for better, for worse  
now holding on to each other not wanting to lose  
that precious anchor.

Their hands find each other automatically,  
a perfect fit, in harmony familiar  
like they were always together  
their warmth, their feel, their rhythmic embrace  
forgetful of the first shy kiss, they introduced.

In youthful innocence  
that first touch, so hesitant, so electric  
explore the magnetism the thrill  
of new-found love.

The old, familiar hands  
were once strangers, were once awkward  
were once timid experiencing new textures  
and new sensations, instruments of the heart.

Their hands,  
worn of work and care, have earned a living  
have cooked, have wiped a feverish brow  
have waved goodbye, have guided  
have held on, have let go,  
rest now in the comfort of each other.

The youthful thrill of exploration  
has evolved through many journeys  
hand in hand, blending hearts and souls,  
so now, the hands' embrace  
is a bond, a lifeline, a togetherness  
an acceptance, a reassurance  
that they have had a partner  
in this life, that they fit each other  
and are not alone.

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## *In Loving Memory*



## *Bernice Irene Holley*

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*September 19, 1923*

*October 11, 2012*

Arrangements Entrusted To

**Reck**  
FUNERAL HOME

Miller, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)



*Bernice Holley*, 89, of Miller, passed away Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Society of Miller.

Bernice Irene was born September 19, 1923 to Kristian and Kristina (Olson) Johnson in Pukwana, South Dakota. She attended country school near her home nine miles southeast of Kimball, SD. She graduated from Pukwana High School and was the first of her family to earn a high school diploma.

She bravely took the train to California when her sister needed help raising twin babies. It was in California where she met Don Holley, a sailor on liberty at a dance. And the rest, you could say, is history.

She and Don were married June 25, 1946 in San Francisco, California. They hopped on a bus back to the Midwest. They lived in Miller while Don helped build the Miller Hospital. They then moved to south Hand County where Bernice worked at the Ames Store. She and Don enjoyed the Pleasant Valley and Justa Hall dances. Work took Don and Bernice to Wells, Minnesota where Don helped built another hospital and they made many new friends. They returned to Hand County and Bernice started working at Mann's Hotel and Silver Grill in 1963. She continued her employment there through several owners until her retirement in 1992 (29 years).

She was a loving wife, devoted mother and proud grandmother of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Don Holley of Miller; three daughters: Donna (Tom) Cotton of Valley Springs, Kathy (Dennis) Harvey of Wolsey, and Vicki Holley of Aberdeen; one son: Dan (Sherry Nolan) Holley of Minneapolis, MN; nine grandchildren: Kristi Butler, Kandi Heal, Cory Harvey, Chad Harvey, Tami Melendez, Toby Harvey, Jill Knudsen, Kelly Hess and Drew Danburg; 26 great grandchildren: Branden Butler, Blake Butler, Bryce Butler, Wyatt Heal, Colton Heal, Juliene Knudsen, Izabella Erickson, Landon Danburg, Ava Danburg, Grace Danburg, Brandon Hess, Hailey Melendez, Anthony Melendez, Dylan Harvey, Dakota Harvey, Kayla Hash, Kaitlin Schmitt, Keisha Grubb, Kaelub Grubb, Karlie Harvey, Taryn Harvey, Dawson Harvey, Logan Harvey, Mackenzie Harvey, Brittany Harvey, and Joshua Harvey; two sisters: Alice Campbell of Miller and Eleanor Shadi of Conrad, CA; and one niece: Dorothy Campbell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers: Trygve Johnson and Ingeveld Johnson and five sisters: Elizabeth Shumaker, Bertha Patterson, Clara Reid, Carrie McKenzie Chester, and Edith Wilson.

## *Bernice Holley*

September 19, 1923  
Pukwana, South Dakota

October 11, 2012  
Miller, South Dakota

### *Funeral Service*

10:30 a.m., Monday, October 15, 2012  
First Presbyterian Church  
Miller, South Dakota

### *Minister*

Rev. Brian Jones

### *Casketbearers: Grandchildren*

Kristi Butler	Kandi Heal	Cory Harvey
Chad Harvey	Tami Melendez	Toby Harvey
Jill Knudsen	Kelly Hess	Drew Danburg

### *Honorary Casketbearers*

Great Grandchildren  
Friends and Neighbors

### *Organist*

Janet Fritzsche

### *Soloist*

Brian Bergeleen – “One Day At A Time”

### *Congregational Hymns*

“Amazing Grace” – “The Old Rugged Cross”

### *Interment*

Hillcrest Cemetery  
Miller, South Dakota